

# Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church November 23, 2025 Christ the King



*Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as a humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.*

**Welcome:** Lord of Life Lutheran Church's long-standing credo is "We share God's Love".

LoL provides a welcoming and safe place for worship, comfort, solace, and reflection. We are called by Jesus to love God and one another: to practice radical hospitality, and to serve all without reservation, stipulations or regard to your race, ethnic background, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, or where you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us in worship and communion and be part of our commitment to anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

**Worship:** *Communion:* All are welcome to share in Holy Communion. Individual packets available near the entrance to the worship center.

*Passing of the Peace:* It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, "May I hug you?" or "Would you like a handshake."

*Physical Distancing:* It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

**Children Welcome:** Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kids bags in the back of the sanctuary.

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages.*

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type.*

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold type**.*

## **PRELUDE**

### ***Gathering***

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#### **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,  
**you have shown us the ways of your heart,  
yet we stray from your paths.  
We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression  
and do not embrace the freedom  
of your faithful promises.  
We ignore our neighbors.  
We exploit the earth.  
We reject your abundance,  
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.  
Repair our relationships,  
restore what we have broken,  
renew our hearts,  
and bring us to new life.  
Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
God the Faithful One loves you,

✠ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

***Now Thank We All Our God***

***ELW 840***

**GREETING**

*All are seated.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***Word***

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**First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6**

*Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.*

<sup>1</sup> Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. <sup>2</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. <sup>3</sup> Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup> I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup> In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 46

- <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
- <sup>3</sup> though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup> **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.
- <sup>6</sup> **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- <sup>8</sup> **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**
- <sup>9</sup> behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
- <sup>10</sup> **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**
- <sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## Second Reading: Colossians 1:11-20

*An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.*

<sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for

him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable*

***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow***

***ELW 885***

Alleluia. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. Alleluia.** (*Mark 11:9*)

### ***THE GOSPEL READING: John 18:33–37***

The Holy Gospel according to John, the eighteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>33</sup> Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” <sup>35</sup> Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” <sup>37</sup> Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All are seated*

***SERMON***

***No Kings but Christ***

***Pastor Adam Dowd***

***Response to the Word***

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*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*

***THE NICENE CREED***

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

*All are seated.*

### ***THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH***

*Each prayer petition will end with...*  
**God, of grace, receive our prayer.**

### ***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE***

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like “**Peace be with you.**” If you have your phone available, text a word of peace to someone who is worshiping alone.*

### ***OFFERING AND PRAYER***

*The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included,  
God has given us.*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## ***OFFERING PRAYER***

### ***Meal***

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*

## ***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING***

***p. 129***

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## ***PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER...***

*join their unending hymn*

Holy, holy, holy are you,  
 God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are filled with your glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is he who comes in your name.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

*The minister continues the eucharistic prayer.*

*....We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

***LORD'S PRAYER***

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us sing as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our debts,**

**as we forgive our debtors;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever. Amen.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION***

***COMMUNION***

*All are seated. Please take time to prepare yourselves and your communion elements.*

*We prioritize people with mobility issues. We invite you to come forward in your own time and take a position at the altar that is most accessible for you.*

***SONG DURING COMMUNION***

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***

# ***Sending***

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## ***BLESSING***

The love of God the Sovereign strengthens you,  
God the Son save you,  
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,  
The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.  
**Amen**

## ***SENDING HYMN***

***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty***

***ELW 858***

## ***DISMISSAL***

Go in peace. Share the harvest.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## ***POSTLUDE***

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Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

### **Presiding Minister**

### **Assisting Minister**

Lector

Organist

Guitarist

Greeters

Ushers

Acolyte

Video

Pastor Adam Dowd

Bob and Elsy Eggert

Judy Padera

Rosita Yao

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Bruce Danielson

Joy Prueter and Bruce Danielson

Alice Tangorra

Roberta Sejnost and Sherry Sejnost

## **Announcements 11-23-2025**

**Wine and Candles** this month are provided by **Elaine Sherman and LeeAnn Swanson** with thanks for all our blessings.

**Help Lead Us in Worship** Our church family thrives when we serve together. We're seeking volunteers to be assistant ministers and lectors—roles that help guide prayer, read Scripture, and support our worship services. If you feel moved to participate, please reach out. No experience needed, just a spirit of service!

**Decorating the Church** Come and join us to decorate the church for Advent on **today at 11:15 am**. It will be a jolly good time!

**South Loop Community Table – Thanksgiving Meal** We're preparing a special Thanksgiving meal for our friends at the South Loop Community Table **this evening!** If you'd like to come along to serve the meal and share in the fellowship, please talk to Pastor Adam. Together, let's spread gratitude and love this season!

**Rock & Roll Songo Night** Join us on Thursday, December 4th, at Freedom Brothers Pizzeria & Alehouse in Naperville, 1293 S Naper Blvd, for a night of music, mayhem, and mouthwatering pizza! We're cranking up the volume with Rock & Roll Singo—a high-energy twist on bingo where your favorite classic rock hits are your game card clues. Game time starts at 7 PM. Let's meet at 6:15 PM to get a table. Let Sherry Sejnost, 630-546-1917, know if you are planning to attend.

**Pop Culture Spirituality Event** We are hosting a special event for high schoolers and young adults on **December 6th at 6:00pm** called Pop Culture Spirituality: K-Pop Demon Hunter.

Together, we'll watch the movie K-Pop Demon Hunter and explore some of the deeper themes it raises—identity, courage, community, and what it means to stand up against forces that diminish life. After the film, Pastor Adam will lead an explorative conversation about how stories in modern media can connect with our Lutheran understanding of faith, vocation, and what God is up to in the world.

It will be a fun night with popcorn, snacks, and great conversation.

**International Christmas Celebration** We will be having a meeting after church on **November 30<sup>th</sup>** to finalize plans.

**Christmas Poinsettias** - Our **2025 Poinsettias** this year will come in a foiled 6-1/2" sized pot with 5 or more flowers on the plant. ***The cost is \$17.00 per plant.*** Please mark the color you prefer (red or white), how many plants you are ordering and the amount enclosed. Please place your order envelope in the collection plate or give it to the church office by **December 14th** at the very latest! Thank you!

**International Christmas Celebration** Our annual International Christmas Celebration on **Sunday, December 7th from 4:00 to 7:00.** We are also having a Christmas raffle and are looking for items to raffle off, with all proceeds going to the ministry fund.

**Please pray for members:**

|               |               |                  |                 |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Art Sejnost   | Aimee Jimenez | Donna Motes      | Marla Suda      |
| Ken Gulliford | Vern Sima     | Kerry Spitznagle | Roberta Sejnost |
| Judy Padera   | Linda Matta   | Paul Ristau      | Toni Blesy      |
| Jim Eckwall   | Cor Peterson  | Caryl Schaer     | Gale Dyskie     |

A full list of relatives, friends, and military personnel for whom we pray is emailed weekly on Friday.

**Last Week's Giving – \$2848.98**

**Electronic Donation for the month of October - \$1133.82**

**THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE**

|           |       |                           |                                        |
|-----------|-------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | 11/23 | <b>10:00 AM</b>           | <b>Worship</b>                         |
|           |       | <b>11:00 AM</b>           | <b>Christmas Tree Decorating</b>       |
|           |       | 12:00 PM                  | Loving Word                            |
|           |       | <b>5:00 PM</b>            | <b>SLCT</b>                            |
| Tuesday   | 11/25 | 5:00 PM                   | Overeaters Anonymous                   |
| Wednesday | 11/26 | <b>10:00 AM</b>           | <b>Bible Study</b>                     |
|           |       | 7:00 PM                   | One Day at a Time                      |
| Thursday  | 11/27 | <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b> |                                        |
| Friday    | 11/28 | <b>9:30 AM</b>            | <b>Cards</b>                           |
| Saturday  | 11/29 | 9:00 AM                   | SDA                                    |
| Sunday    | 11/30 | <b>10:00 AM</b>           | <b>Worship</b>                         |
|           |       | <b>11:00 AM</b>           | <b>International Christmas Meeting</b> |
|           |       | 12:00 PM                  | Loving Word                            |

**Lord of Life Lutheran Church**

**Pastor Adam Dowd**      **lolpastoradam@gmail.com**  
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Please call the church office first if you need something.